



"always invigorating" – Steve Morse, *Boston Globe*

In today's music business, where qualities like originality or raw emotion have become part of marketing rhetoric – it is often difficult to discern from reviews and buzz, the artists who might truly be speaking a unique language. Deb Pasternak, a self-professed student and observer of our society is one such artist. She watches reads and listens to the world in which she lives. Her portrayal of life experience – through lyrics and music that are both "pop and deep" – creates a powerful cultural reflection for the listener.

On her new cd, "Home," Pasternak takes much of the common human experience – facing fear or loss and love – and creates a cultural space to feel these emotions deeply.

Pasternak writes across styles – giving nods to pop, folk, country, jazz and even grunge – as if to use the genre skipping to further denote the universality of the everywoman voice with which she sings.

Raised in New England, Pasternak was not formally trained as a musician, although her earliest memories include singing, and she spent years in the children's church choir. She started playing guitar and singing songs mainly as an outlet during her youth, due to the fact that rheumatoid arthritis kept her unable to participate in sports. She entertained friends at parties and eventually started playing cover gigs, mainly to pick up relatively easy money in the summertime during college. She didn't consider music as a profession until later when the severity of her arthritis stymied other plans for a physically active life, and this emotional outlet became career path.

Pasternak has been in the music scene since the mid-90's when she first started catching the ears of critics and industry insiders, playing prestigious conferences, being nominated for and winning awards and garnering national press acclamation. Still, in a world defined by format radio and genre partitioned music stores, Pasternak's continual refusal to fit into a genre box or produce flavor of the day cds has resulted in a career with a more windy path than one might expect.

The long climb is due, in part, to Pasternak's own hiatus from the business of music – following the events of September 11. Pasternak was motivated to get involved in democracy, organizing politically within her community. Understanding that personal empowerment emerges through self-acceptance, Pasternak believes that shame, guilt and fear are powerful contributors to a sense of inadequacy and hopelessness. By articulating the emotions of facing the darker sides of ourselves, Pasternak's music serves to help inspire an individual's self-empowerment and engagement. While this may be the underpinning of her music, Pasternak's nightingale vocals merged with her brilliant lyricism and musicality are the gem that grabs the listener. "Out there lies a landscape of people just like me... each chases his own passion, like a child climbs a tree..."

In recording "Home," Pasternak invited her live band into the studio for three days – then taught them the eleven songs there on the spot – and the resulting arrangements are energetic, fresh and spare. Although many of the songs do have overdubs – backing vocals on the three "singles," – *Home*, *The Race* and *The Road*, most of what you hear – from Deb's vocals to all of Tom West's keys are the original session tracks. What is amazing about the band on this album is their versatility – going from a 40's jazz ballad *No Need to Venture Outside* to the reckless rock of *The Road*.

Pasternak has spent the past ten years lovingly developing her craft – producing cds that consistently have major label quality production and honing a live performance which has now earned her the status as the "stealth bomber" of unknown acts. Pasternak is a performer and writer who simply keeps broadening her artistic palette. "Home," with its simple and spacious production, should serve to further advance Deb Pasternak's career, turning even more people onto this very pop and very deep artist.

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